

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Beginning Farmer

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Beginning Farmer		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Cropland Questions - Answer only if applicable. Choose either a.) or b.) - NOT Both	
1. a. Is irrigation water use reduction at 35% or greater as determined by CT NRCS?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. Is irrigation water use reduction less than 35%, but more than 20% as determined by CT NRCS?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c. Will the producer develop and implement an IPM plan for this area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. d. Will multi-species cover crops or crop rotation of more than two families be used as part of the cropping system?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. e. Will crops be planted into a high surface residue such as an organic mulch or no-till/low-till system?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. f. Is the producer actively engaged in a Nutrient Management Plan, in accordance with USDA NRCS standards?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. g. Does an identified resource concern of sheet and rill erosion exist and are contracted practices expected to reduce the soil loss from above "T" to "T" or below according to RUSLE2?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Forestland/ Wildlife Questions - Answer only if applicable	
2. a. Is the contract based on a forest management plan which includes a goal to adjust the base line stocking rate to the correct level through practices of either thinning or planting?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Does this contract address ALL invasive species identified in the participant's forest management plan where the plan identifies the potential for successful control and/or containment?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Does the contract include practices to promote native species - either planting or natural regeneration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Will the practices in this contract benefit aquatic wildlife habitats?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Will the intended practice(s) provide direct benefits to wildlife and habitats through implementation of practices that include mast release, tree and shrub plantings, or encouragement of early successional habitats?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. f. Will the contract address wildlife habitat concerns as the primary objective. This will be reflected in an increase in the forest land Wildlife Habitat Suitability Index.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. g. Will the practices in this contract enhance or provide wildlife corridors by linking existing habitat patches across owned or adjacent forestland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Pasture/Hayland Questions - Answer only if applicable Choose either b) or c) -- Not Both. Choose either d) or e) -- Not Both	
3. a. Will the producer implement a prescribed grazing plan in accordance with the requirements of CT NRCS 528, Prescribed Grazing?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Are fences planned in this contract at least 35 feet from wetlands and water?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Are fences planned in this contract at less than 35 feet but at least 10 feet from wetlands and water?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

3. d. Is grazing likely to provide 100% of feed during the growing season?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. e. Is grazing likely to provide between 75 - 99% of feed during the growing season?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. f. Does the pasture(s) have both legumes and grass species existing or planned?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. g. Does the pasture(s) have both warm and cool season grasses existing or planned?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. h. Does the pasture system make use of any annual forages?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. i. Will more than 4 different species of perennial forage be planted?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. j. Will cropland be seeded to permanent perennial forage?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Location	
1. a. Is this an application for practices to address water quality at a confined livestock feeding operation that is located in a twelve (12) digit Hydrologic Unit code (HUC) watershed of a 303(d) listed stream?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. Is this application located in a Public Water Supply Watershed or designated Aquifer Protection Area AND does it contain practices that address water quality?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c. Does the contract application involves land that has been permanently protected through federal, state, local government programs or private land trusts?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Degree of Cooperation by Producer	
2. a. Have other Federal, State, local, or non governmental organization financial resources been committed to this project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Magnitude of Expected Benefits	
3. a. Does the contract application have energy as a secondary resource concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Does the contract application involve conservation of surface and/or groundwater (i.e. irrigation water management)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Will the practices in this contract directly benefit threatened or endangered species according to results obtained from the CT-DEEP NDDDB (Natural Diversity Database)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Has the producer completed, or is currently enrolled in, an organic certification program recognized by USDA?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

Efficiency: Local Issues: State Issues: National Issues: Final Ranking Score:
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This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date: